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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Plant Pest Control Division, Western Region
P. O. Box 18
Oakland, California 94604

February 15, 1967

AIRMAIL

Dear Cooperator:

We are attaching a report covering the first of two beet leafhopper surveys to be made by the Plant Pest Control Division in the desert areas of southern Utah and Nevada, southeastern California, and central Arizona. This survey was made during the period January 30 through February 14, 1967. The second survey will probably be made by mid-March and findings will be reported upon completion of same.

Sincerely yours,


Jim R. Dutton
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure

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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Plant Pest Control Division, Western Region

BEET LEAFHOPPER SURVEY - DESERT AREAS OF SOUTHERN UTAH AND NEVADA,
SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 14, 1967

Surveys made by Plant Pest Control Division personnel in the beet leafhopper spring breeding areas named indicate that, present conditions prevailing, spring movement of the pest from these areas to cultivated districts of southeastern California, central Arizona, and central Utah, is expected to be light to moderate.

Movement to southern Nevada, southern Utah, eastern Utah, and western Colorado is expected to be moderate to heavy.

The southern desert breeding grounds, comprising approximately 50,000 square miles of potential weed host area, was considered to have an estimated 39 percent host plant cover at the time of the survey. Fall and early winter rains resulted in early development of annual weed host plants. These plants, however, were showing stress during the survey due to lack of later rains. Weed host plants were more general and in better condition in areas north of the 34-degree parallel than south.

The average number of beet leafhoppers found in areas where host plants were present was 0.09 per square foot in 1967, as compared to 0.013 in 1966, 0.04 in 1965, 0.15 in 1964, 0.02 in 1963, 0.12 in 1962, and 0.02 in 1961. It is estimated from data collected during this survey that overwintering beet leafhoppers in the southern desert spring breeding grounds total 32.7 billion in 1967, as compared to 6.5 billion in 1966, 12 billion in 1965, 112 billion in 1964, 7.7 billion in 1963, 6.1 billion in 1962, and 6.3 billion in 1961.

This report covers only the beet leafhopper situation as found in the area surveyed, and does not have reference to populations that may have overwintered in local breeding areas in northern and eastern Utah or western Colorado or western Nevada.

Prepared at
PPC, ARS, USDA
Oakland, California
February 15, 1967

